

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:FAO, UNWFC

SUBJECT:SENEGALESE PARTICIPATION IN FIRST WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
JUNE 23-27, ROME

1. LARGELY BECAUSE OF LDC BICKERING OVER THE COMPETENCE OF
THE SECRETARIAT AND A PROPOSED SET OF RULES OF PROCEDURE,
-THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MADE ONLY SCANT
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PROGRESS IN ITS FIRST SESSION. THE COUNCIL, AS EMBASSY WILL

RECALL, WAS THE PRINCIPAL OUTGROWTH OF THE NOVEMBER 1974 WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STAND MOST TO BENEFIT FROM THIS HIGH LEVEL COORDINATING-ADVISORY BODY, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF PROGRESS.

2. IN GENERAL THEY USED COMPLAINTS ABOUT DOCUMENTATION AND THE LACK OF ADEQUATE INTERPRETATION (TO HANDLE CAUCUS GROUPS) AS THE BASIS FOR CALLING FOR THE OUSTER OF WHAT THEY CHARGED WAS AN INCOMPETENT AND UNREPRESENTATIVE SECRETARIAT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MAIN FOCUS WAS THE REMOVAL OF DR. JOHN HANNAH (FORMER DIRECTOR OF AID) WHO WAS APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL BY UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, SENEGAL, IN THE

PERSON OF AMBASSADOR SIDI MOHAMMED DIOURY, SENEGALESE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FAO, SUCCEEDED IN SPEAKING FREQUENTLY AS AN OBSERVER AND WAS THE PRINCIPAL CRITIC AND LEADER OF THE GROUP OF 77 ON THIS ISSUE. THE AMBASSADOR WAS SO VEHEMENT IN HIS ATTACK THAT AT ONE POINT HE CHARGED THE PAKISTANI CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 (WHO SPOKE ONLY AS CHAIRMAN) WITH BETRAYING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN HIS REPORT ON THE G-77 CAUCUS BY NOT MAKING A STRONG, MORE SPECIFIC PRESENTATION. THERE SEEMED LITTLE DOUBT THAT DIOURY WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEGREE OF ABUSE DIRECTED AT THE SECRETARIAT.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE GOS OF OUR EXTREME DISPLEASURE OVER THE CONDUCT OF AMBASSADOR DIOURY AND OUR REGRET THAT THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, WHICH HOLDS SO MUCH PROMISE FOR THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, WAS UNABLE TO MOVE AHEAD. WE THINK IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT MINISTERS TO DEVOTE TIME AND EFFORT TO IMPROVING THE CRITICAL WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND YET BE FACED WITH DISRUPTIVE, ILL-CONCEIVED ACTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. IN OUR VIEW, THE CONDUCT OF AMBASSADOR DIOURY WAS PARTICULARLY DEPLORABLE IN VIEW OF THE CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS LONG EXISTED BETWEEN US AND SENEGAL, REINFORCED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S RECENT VISIT TO US AND CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD. THE GLOBAL FOOD PROGRAM DEPENDS UPON COOPERATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRESS. IF THE GOS DELEGATION ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE VIEWPOINT OF ITS GOVERNMENT, USG WOULD CONCLUDE THAT GOS IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE GLOBAL FOOD PROGRAM. IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, USG BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR GOS REPRESENTATIVE

AT FUTURE MEETINGS TO BE INSTRUCTED ACCORDINGLY IN THE INTEREST OF SOLVING THIS IMPORTANT GLOBAL PROBLEM THROUGH COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION. FYI: DIOURY HAS BEEN TROUBLESOME IN PREVIOUS FAO AND WFP MEETINGS, AND WE BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT HE ACTS WITHOUT GUIDANCE ON MOST ISSUES. END FYI.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON APPROACH AND REACTION OF GOS. SIMILAR PROTESTS ARE BEING SENT TO GUINEA AND BANGLADESH. KISSINGER

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